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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/804,837	03/19/2004	Werner Schuhmann	NC-001.01	7544

26799 7590 09/20/2005

IP LEGAL DEPARTMENT
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EXAMINER

HUNNINGS, TRAVIS R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2632

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/804,837

Applicant(s)

SCHUHMANN ET AL.

Examiner

Travis R. Hunnings

Art Unit

2632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: reference number 20 mentioned in paragraph 24. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 11, 22 and 30 recite the limitation "said socket" in the second line of the body of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-4, 8-15, 19-23 and 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of Lys et al. (Lys; US Patent Publication 2001/0028227).

Regarding claim 1, as shown by AAPA in the Background of the Invention, it is well known that in the health care industry, particularly with hospitals and nursing homes, indicator lights are located outside of patient's rooms in order to notify hospital staff that certain conditions exist by multiple dome lights each having separate colors for separate conditions (specification, paragraphs 2 and 3). It is therefore well known in the art to have a nurse call indicator having a housing capable of supporting plural individually replaceable indicator lamps.

The claimed plural indicator lamps comprising a printed circuit board mountable in a single indicator space within the housing with at least one LED mounted on the printed circuit board is not similarly disclosed. Lys discloses *Data Delivery Track* that teaches a light module having a platform that supports multiple LEDs and is able to plug

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into a conventional light bulb, halogen bulb, or other illumination source (paragraph 193). Modifying the well known configuration of a housing with multiple dome lights to use the platform supported LEDs (it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the platform would be a printed circuit board (PCB) to hold and power the LEDs mounted thereon) because it would be cheaper using LEDs and they still retain the ease of replacement. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the device that is well known according to the teachings of Lys to include a PCB with LEDs mounted thereon to replace the dome lights.

Regarding claim 2, the claimed each lamp displaying a distinct color is met by the AAPA wherein each dome light has a separate color (Background of the Invention of Applicant's specification, paragraphs 2 and 3).

Regarding claim 3, examiner takes official notice that the claimed each indicator lamp further comprising a resistor such that the lamp is able to operate at a standard voltage normally used for a non-LED bulb is well known to one of ordinary skill in the art to use resistors to limit the current and voltage delivered to LEDs in order for them to properly operate.

Regarding claim 4, the claimed indicator lamp comprising plural LEDs of same color, the plural LEDs being activated simultaneously to provide extra brightness is met by the LED array as shown in Lys figure 20.

Regarding claim 8, the claimed housing having been constructed to accept standard bulbs, each indicator lamp able to replace a standard bulb within the housing is met by the LED array having a platform that can connect to a conventional light bulb, halogen bulb, or other illumination source (paragraph 193).

Regarding claim 9, the claimed printed circuit having mounted thereon means for electrically connecting the printed circuit to an incandescent bulb socket in the housing for the purpose of supplying power to said indicator lamp is met by the LED array having a platform that can connect to a conventional light bulb, halogen bulb, or other illumination source (Lys: paragraph 193).

Regarding claim 10, the claimed printed circuit having mounted thereon electrically conductive rails for electrically connecting the printed circuit to an incandescent bulb socket in the housing for the purpose of supplying power to said indicator lamp, said rails having protrusions which when inserted into said socket are in electrical contact with said socket is met by the LED array having a platform that can connect to a conventional light bulb, halogen bulb, or other illumination source

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(paragraph 193). The platform can be arranged in any configuration that would allow it to connect to a standard light fixture.

Regarding claim 11, the claimed printed circuit having an opening which fits over said socket is met by the LED array having a platform that can connect to a conventional light bulb, halogen bulb, or other illumination source (Lys: paragraph 193).

Regarding claims 12 and 23, the claims are interpreted and rejected as claim 1 stated above.

Regarding claim 13, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 2 stated above.

Regarding claim 14, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 3 stated above.

Regarding claim 15, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 4 stated above.

Regarding claims 19 and 27, the claims are interpreted and rejected as claim 8 stated above.

Regarding claims 20 and 28, the claims are interpreted and rejected as claim 9 stated above.

Regarding claims 21 and 29, the claims are interpreted and rejected as claim 10 stated above.

Regarding claims 22 and 30, the claims are interpreted and rejected as claim 11 stated above.

6. Claims 5-7, 16-18 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Lys and further in view of Sivacumarran (US Patent 6,727,652).

Regarding claim 5, AAPA and Lys disclose all of the claimed limitations except for the claimed indicator lamp being capable of displaying at least two colors, a first polarity activating a first color and a second polarity activating a second color: Sivacumarran discloses *Lamps* that teaches a LED based indicator that can have a single or a plurality of LEDs that are separately turned on in differing colors based on the polarity of the applied voltage (column 4, lines 41-59). Modifying the platform LED array of Lys to have multiple LEDs of differing colors that are activated based on the polarity of the applied voltage would give the device more functionality by giving each lamp the ability to show multiple colors. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of

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ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the device disclosed by applicant's disclose and Lys according to the teachings of Sivacumarran to have the LED array be comprised of LEDs of differing colors that are activated based on the polarity of the applied voltage.

Regarding claims 6, 16, 17, 24 and 25, the claims are interpreted and rejected as claim 5 stated above.

Regarding claim 7, the claimed multi-color indicator lamp identifying at least two different room statuses depending on the activated color is met by the applicant's disclosure of the background of the invention having dome lights that alert hospital staff to the condition of the room or patient depending on the color of the light (Background of the Invention of Applicant's specification, paragraphs 2 and 3).

Regarding claims 18 and 26, the claims are interpreted and rejected as claim 7 stated above.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Matheny, *Fire Department Station Zoned Alerting Control System*, US Patent 6,778,081;

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Zhang et al. *LED Light Bulb*, US Patent.6,227,679;

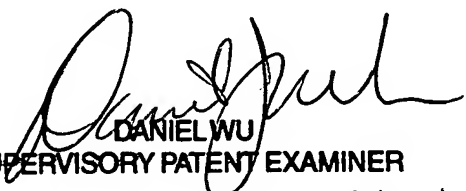
Vukosic, *Multi Color And Omni Directional Warning Lamp*, US Patent 6,483,439.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Travis R. Hunnings whose telephone number is (571) 272-3118. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:00 pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel J. Wu can be reached on (571) 272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TRH


DANIEL WU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
9/17/05